

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gas burner for a fireplace, comprising:
a burner panel defining a top surface and a bottom surface;
a bottom burner member coupled to the burner panel;
wherein the burner panel defines at least one aperture to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel; and
wherein the burner panel comprises a compression molded material.
2. The gas burner of claim 1, wherein the compression molded material comprises an inorganic fiber and a binder.
3. A gas burner for a fireplace, comprising:
a burner panel defining a top surface and a bottom surface;
a bottom burner member coupled to the burner panel;
wherein the burner panel defines at least one aperture to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel;
wherein the bottom surface of the burner panel defines at least one cavity; and
wherein the at least one cavity extends above at least a portion of the top surface of the burner panel.
4. The gas burner of claim 3, wherein the burner panel comprises a compression molded material.
5. The gas burner of claim 3, wherein the compression molded material comprises an inorganic fiber and a binder.
6. The gas burner of claim 3, wherein bottom surface of the burner panel defines two or more cavities.

7. The gas burner of claim 3, wherein at least a portion of the burner panel comprises at least one preformed log.

8. The gas burner of claim 7, wherein the at least one preformed log defines at least a portion of the cavity.

6 9. The gas burner of claim 3, wherein the burner panel defines a plurality of apertures to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel.

7 10. A gas burner for a fireplace, comprising:
a burner panel defining a top surface and a bottom surface;
a bottom burner member coupled to the burner panel;
wherein the burner panel defines at least one aperture to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel;
wherein the burner panel comprises a compression molded material; and
wherein the burner panel comprises a bottom panel of a combustion chamber enclosure.

8 11. The gas burner of claim 10, wherein the compression molded material comprises an inorganic fiber and a binder.

9 12. The gas burner of claim 10, wherein the bottom burner member comprises a pan.

10 13. The gas burner of claim 10, wherein the bottom burner member comprises a metal pan.

11 14. The gas burner of claim 10, wherein the bottom burner member comprises a plate.

12 15. The gas burner of claim 10⁷, wherein the bottom burner member comprises a metal plate.

13 16. The gas burner of claim 10⁷, wherein the bottom burner member is recessed within the bottom surface of the burner panel.

14 17. The gas burner of claim 10⁷, wherein the burner panel defines a plurality of apertures to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel.

15 18. The gas burner of claim 10⁷, wherein the bottom burner member and at least a portion of the bottom surface of the burner panel defines a reservoir to provide a gas/air mixture to the at least one aperture.

5183 19. A gas burner for a fireplace, comprising:
a burner panel defining a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein the top surface has a raised upper portion and a lower portion;
a bottom burner member coupled to the burner panel;
wherein the burner panel defines at least one aperture to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel;
wherein the bottom surface of the burner panel defines at least one cavity; and
wherein the raised upper portion of the top surface extends above the lower portion.

17 20. The gas burner of claim 19¹⁶, wherein the burner panel defines a plurality of apertures to provide a gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel.

18 21. A method for forming a gas burner for use in a prefabricated fireplace, comprising:

forming a compression molded burner panel;
coupling a bottom burner member to the burner panel; and

forming at least one aperture in the burner panel.

19 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the compression molded burner panel comprises an inorganic fiber and binder.

20 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of forming the burner panel further comprises the step of forming at least one cavity in the bottom surface of the burner panel, wherein the at least one cavity extends above at least a portion of the top surface.

21 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of forming the burner panel comprises the step of forming a prefabricated log in at least a portion of the burner panel.

22 25. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of disposing the burner panel as a bottom panel of a combustion chamber enclosure.

23 26. A method of assembling a prefabricated fireplace, comprising:
providing a combustion chamber enclosure having a burner panel as a bottom panel of the combustion chamber enclosure, the burner panel comprising a compression molded material; and
providing an outer enclosure surrounding the combustion chamber enclosure.